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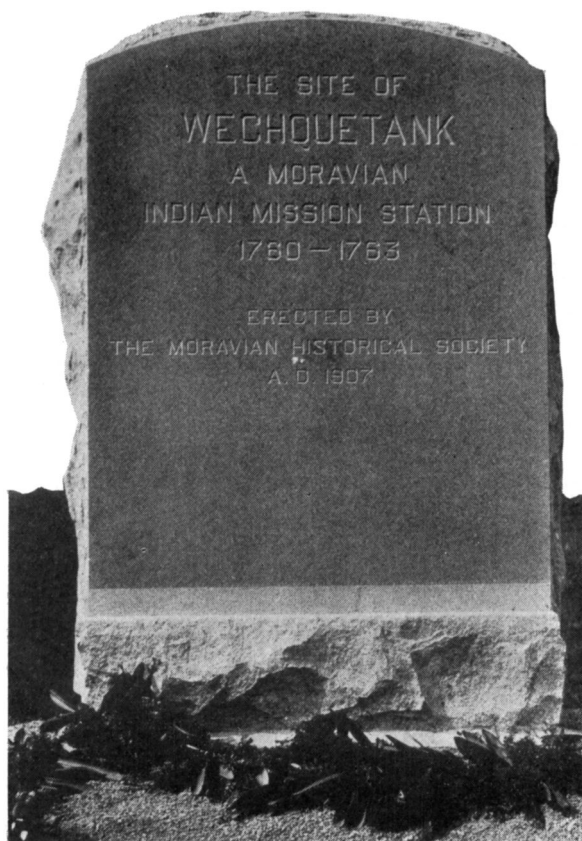
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WECHQUETANK.

1749—1760.



THE MONUMENT AT WECHQUETANK.

DEDICATION OF THE MONUMENT AT WECHQUETANK.

According to announcement, this ceremony took place on Friday, May 31, 1907. The occasion was one long to be remembered. As to weather conditions, the day was an ideal one and the dedication exercises were appropriate and very impressive. The stone marks the scene of Moravian missionary labors during the years 1750-56 and 1760-63 at Wechquetank, near the present village of Gilbert, Monroe County, Pa. A full account of this activity will be found in a paper on "Wechquetank," written by the Rev. Eugene Leibert and published in Vol. VII of the Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society.

Members and friends of the Historical Society, mainly from Bethlehem and Nazareth, journeyed to the place to participate in the exercises. The committee on arrangements had secured the running of a special train on the Lehigh and New England Railway from Bethlehem to Saylorsburg. Starting at 9.15 a.m., with the Bethlehem contingent and picking up the party from Nazareth at Bath, the train reached Saylorsburg after an hour's run. There four stages were in readiness for the ride of seven miles across Ross Township, through the lower corner of Chestnut Township to the village of Gilbert, in Polk Township. This part of the journey through the fertile Bucktown Valley over Wire Ridge into Pleasant Valley was particularly enjoyable, affording fine views of a country rich in the varied charms of smiling vale and solemn mountain, bright field and gloomy forest, broad meadow and slender stream. At noon the destination was reached. Several members of the Society, travelling by a different route had arrived earlier. They swelled the number of Moravians present to a little more than one hundred. Lunch was partaken of at the Gilbert Hotel.

At the time appointed for the exercises, half past one o'clock, the procession formed in front of the hotel, six trombonists

from Bethlehem in the lead, the clergy, members and friends of Historical Society following in the order named, and marched several hundred yards to the stone. The playing of the noble strains of Tune 83, as the procession moved, as indeed, all the skillful rendering of the chorales added much to the beauty and solemnity of the occasion.

Arrived at the monument, those in the procession and the people that had gathered from the neighborhood, to the number of five hundred, arranged themselves around the stone, the dedication services, following the printed order of exercises, prepared by the President of the Society, being:—

1. Hymn: "What are these in bright array?"
2. The Apostle's Creed.
3. The Gloria Patri.
4. The Lord's Prayer.
5. Hymn: "How are thy servants blessed, O Lord!"
6. Dedicatory address by Bishop J. M. Levering.
7. Prayer by the Rev. Paul de Schweinitz.
8. Hymn: "For all thy saints, O Lord."
9. Responsive reading of the doxology, "Unto the Lamb that was slain."
10. Hymn: "Sing Hallelujah, praise the Lord."
11. Benediction.

The monument of blue New Hampshire granite, is similar to the one erected six years ago to mark the site of Meniolagomeka five miles to the south of that of Wechquetank. Rising from a mound covering the sides of its solid foundation of concrete, within a plot of ground, twenty feet square, acquired by the Society on the right bank of Hoeth's Creek or Head's Creek, it is eight feet high, four feet wide and two feet thick. It stands near enough to the public highway for the passerby to read on its polished surface the following inscription:—

The Site of
WECHQUETANK,
a Moravian
Indian Mission Station,
1760-1763.
Erected by
The Moravian Historical Society,
A. D. 1907.

For the people of the neighborhood the day was "an high day." It is a pleasure to record that they not only appeared in considerable numbers, but also entered with sympathetic interest into the spirit of the occasion. The address, packed with information concerning their own neighborhood and surrounding places during an interesting period, was of particular value to them.

The program, providing for exercises of reasonable length, could be carried through without a hitch, and all members and friends of the Society, thanks to the excellent arrangements for transportation, were enabled to reach their homes before dark.